REMARKS

Claims 1 to 21 are canceled. Claims 22 to 42 have been added.

The specification has been amended to correct an obvious clerical error, by replacing "cartridge" with "cartilage".

New claims 22 to 42 are supported by the original claims as set forth below:

New Claim	Previous Claim
22	1, 20 and 21
23	4
24	5
25	6
26	7
27	8
28	9
29	1
30	4
31	10
32	11
33	12
34	13
35	14
36	15
37	16
38	17
39	18
40	19
41	20
42	21

In addition, new claim 29 deletes the option that between the substituent B, the group $-NR^4-$ can be inserted. This merely deletes one member of a Markush group. The same amendment has been made to new claim 31. Further, the proviso in claim 31 has been reworded to clarify that the case mentioned in the proviso is excluded. This merely deletes members of a

Markush group. Claims 41 and 42 correspond to original claims 20 and 21, except that they now recite a compound rather than a method.

Accordingly, no question of new matter arises and entry of the Amendment is requested, respectfully.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 20 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite because claim 20 should refer in the alternative to the multiple claims from which it depends

Claims 20 and 21 are canceled making the rejection moot.

Double Patenting

The examiner repeated the obviousness-type double patenting rejection over co-pending Application No. 09/743,483. The examiner pointed out that this is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the claims of the '483 application have not been patented.

The examiner is requested to hold any obviousness type double-patenting rejection in abeyance until allowable subject matter is indicated in one of the two applications.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 4-10, 12 and 14-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by any of a) Yoshida et al. (JP 03-014566 or CA 115:1600, 1991), b) Nicolai et al., (Journal of Medicinal Chemistry (1993), 36(9), pages 1175-1187, c) Bru-Magniez et al. (U.S. Pat. 5,021,443), d) Bru-Magniez et al. (U.S. Pat. 5,124,336), and Bru-Magniez et al. (U.S. Pat. 5,128,359, all previously cited.

In response to this rejection in the last Office Action, claims 1 and 4-9, that recited an inhibitor of human chymase activity, were amended to recite a method of inhibiting human chymase activity, which applicants pointed out is not disclosed by any of the cited references. In addition, composition claims 10-19 were amended to delete certain groups.

As to the method claims, the examiner asserted that even though the cited references do not expressly teach that the compounds are useful for inhibiting human chymase activity, the references do teach that the compounds are useful for treating various diseases and that this treatment would inherently involve inhibiting human chymase activity.

As to the composition claims, the examiner asserted that the references still disclose compounds encompassed within claims 10, 12 and 14-19.

The examiner also rejected claims 1, 4-10, 12 and 14-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over any of the three Bru-Magniez et al. patents, each taken alone or in combination with each other.

The examiner did not address the method claims.

As to the compound claims, the examiner generally stated that even if the presently claimed compounds are not disclosed in the cited references, one skilled in the art would have been motivated to make the claimed compounds because the claimed compounds would be expected to have benefits in treatment of diseases related to thromboxane receptor antagonist activity. The examiner further asserted that the proviso at the end of independent claim 10 did not exclude the compounds disclosed in the references, because the proviso allowed for X^1 and X^2, independently, to be hydrogen or halogen.

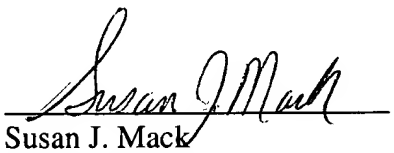
The method claims no longer recite treatment of various diseases. Rather, they recite treatment of bone/cartilage metabolic disease. Accordingly, the Examiner's inherency argument is moot.

In addition, the compound claims have been amended to exclude the embodiment wherein the group $-NR^4-$ can be contained in the alkaline or alkenylene group between atoms in the substituents substituting the substituents B. Furthermore, the proviso has been amended to clarify that it is reciting the case that is excluded.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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